

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 166802

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB UR

SUBJECT: US LABOR VISITS

FOR LABOR ATTACHES

DEPT INFORMED OF FOLLOWING VISITS TO USSR BY US LABOR
GROUPS IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD:

1. DELEGATION FROM AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY
AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME), AFL-CIO. THIS WILL
BE EIGHT MEMBER DELEGATION CONSISTING OF NATIONAL
SECRETARY-TREASURER WILLIAM LUCY, TWO VICE PRESIDENTS,
EARL STOUT FROM PHILADELPHIA AND DAVID TRASK OF
HONOLULU, ONE DISTRICT COUNCIL DIRECTOR, TWO LESSER

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PAGE 02 STATE 166802

OFFICIALS AND TWO WIVES. PLAN ARRIVAL AUG 25 AND

DEPART ABOUT SEPT 8 OR 9. TRAVEL ITINERARY APPARENTLY IN HANDS OF SOVIET HOSTS BUT LUCY HAS INFORMED DEPT THAT IN ADDITION TO MOSCOW DELEGATION EXPECTS VISIT LENINGRAD, ODESSA, AND YALTA. DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY CONTACT EMBASSY AND CG LENINGRAD AND MAY BE INTERESTED IN BRIEFING.

2. UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA (USW), AFL-CIO. IN RESPONSE TO LETTER OF INVITATION FROM I. KOSTYUKOV, PRESIDENT, CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOVIET METALLURGICAL WORKERS UNION, I.W. ABEL, PRESIDENT OF USW INFORMED KOSTYUKOV BY LETTER DATED JULY 31 THAT USW SENDING "A JOINT DELEGATION OF US AND CANADIAN STEELWORKERS TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR A VISIT WITH YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY." ABEL ALSO NAMED THREE MAN DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY WILLIAM MAHONEY, USW NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CANADA. OTHERS ARE LLOYD MCBRIDE, DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 34 OF ST. LOUIS; AND JOHN J. SHEEHAN, USW LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR IN WASHINGTON. DATES OF VISIT EXPECTED TO BE FROM SEPT 14 TO END OF MONTH.

3. THERE IS ALSO IN THE MAKING A DELEGATION OF APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT LABOR EDITORS UNDER LEADERSHIP OF RAY PASNICK, PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR OF SAME UNITED STEELWORKERS. EXACT COMPOSITION OF THIS DELEGATION NOT YET DETERMINED ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED GROUP WILL DEPART AROUND SEPT 6. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THIS DELEGATION SEEMS TO STEM IN PART AT LEAST FROM FACT THAT CERTAIN EDITORS WHO WERE ASKED BY PASNICK TO PARTICIPATE HAVE DECLINED. DEPT WILL TRANSMIT INFORMATION ON COMPOSITION THIS DELEGATION IF AVAILABLE BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE FROM US.

4. DESPITE PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT OIL, CHEMICAL, AND ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO IS ALSO SENDING DELEGATION, DEPT IS RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THIS UNION HAS NO REPEAT NO PRESENT PLANS TO DO SO.

5. PLEASE EXTEND APPROPRIATE COURTESIES AND BRIEFINGS AS MAY BE REQUESTED BY THESE GROUPS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 166802

6. FYI EMBASSY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THESE VISITS INITIATED BY RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED AND NOT BY AFL-CIO HEADQUARTERS. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEPT INDICATES THAT LATTER CONTINUES REGARD SUCH VISITS AS INCONSISTENT WITH BASIC AFL-CIO POLICY AS ENUNCIATED BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CONVENTION. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT THESE VISITS MAY SUBSE-

QUENTLY SPARK CONTROVERSY PERHAPS EVEN AT FORTHCOMING
AFL-CIO BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN OCTOBER. END FYI.

7. SHOULD THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS TO THE
HOST SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS COME UP FOR DISCUSSION,
EMBASSY MAY WISH CALL ATTENTION TO USG'S POLICY
AGAINST SEEKING WAIVERS FOR OFFICIAL SOVIET "UNION
TO UNION" VISITS TO US AND SHOULD AVOID GIVING ANY
ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE US VISITORS IN THIS REGARD. SEE
STATE 165645 AS MOST RECENT CASE IN POINT.

8. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS OF
THESE VISITS AS WELL AS FULL TEXTS OF ANY STATEMENTS
ISSUED EITHER JOINTLY OR SEPARATELY. ROGERS

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